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C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 000682

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CCA (ZAMBRANO)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/23/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [CU](#) [QA](#)  
SUBJECT: QATAR-CUBA REVIEW FOR SUSPENSION OF TITLE III OF  
THE LIBERTAD ACT

REF: SECSTATE 115416

Classified By: Ambassador Joseph E. LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b and d).

[1](#)1. (C) In response to reftel request, Embassy Doha provides the following information on Qatar's relations with Cuba.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Has the host country, in Post's opinion, worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba?

-- We have no evidence that Qatar has worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Has the host country made public statements or undertaken other governmental actions, such as resolutions in the national assemblies condemning human rights abuses in Cuba; or actions in support of civil society in Cuba through host country's diplomatic missions or other fora?

-- No.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Have there been any high-level diplomatic visits between Cuba and the host country in the past six months?

-- The Embassy is aware of no high level diplomatic visits over the last six months.

-- Cuba has an Embassy in Doha, staffed by a resident Ambassador. Qatar does not have a permanent diplomatic mission in Havana.

[1](#)5. (C) What is the nature of investments (and names, if known) that host country businesses have in Cuba?

-- A \$75 million dollar investment in a joint hotel project with by Qatari Resorts Company and Cuba's Gran Antilla SA under the name Gran Paraiso.

[1](#)6. (SBU) Are there any bilateral trade agreements or other cooperative agreements between host country and Cuba?

The signed agreements in place between Qatar and Cuba include:

-- A 2007 agreement on the avoidance of dual taxation and the prevention of financial evasion regarding income tax.

-- A 2006 agreement on administrative assistance for a customs law to prevent, track, and fight customs crimes.

-- A 2006 air transport agreement.

-- A 2005 agreement on encouragement and protection of investments.

[1](#)7. (SBU) Are there any exchange programs between host country and Cuba, including but not limited to: scholarships for host

country nationals to study in Cuba; Cuban-paid medical travel for host country nationals; and Cuban doctors working in host country?

-- According to an August, 2008 statement by Qatar's Ambassador to Cuba, 50 Cuban doctors and paramedical personnel are working in Qatar as part of a bilateral agreement.

-- Qatar's National Council for Culture, Art, and Heritage has a cooperation agreement with the Cuban Cultural Ministry. Cuba occasionally participates in some Qatari cultural events such as the Doha International Book Fair. Other than occasional visits, we are unaware of any ongoing exchange programs except as noted above.  
LeBaron